GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3305
ANSWERED ON:15.04.2002
MARINE AQUARIUM AND RESEARCH CENTRE AT DIGHA
ARUN KUMAR

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the CAG in its Report No.5 of 2002 (Scientific Department) has brought out the Non-Commissioning of Marine Aquarium and Research Centre Digha approval for which was given by the Planning Commission during the Sixth Five Year Plan and on which an expenditure of Rs. 233.08 lakh upto June 1990 had been incurred, as yet;

(b) if so, the reasons for not setting up the centre so far;

(c) whether there is any proposal to enquire into the wasteful expenditure of the Government money and for conceiving such projects which do not take off and to book the guilty officials; and

(d) if so, the details thereof indicating the time by which the said centre is likely to be set up?

Answer

MINISTER FOR ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T.R.BAALU)

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Marine Aquarium and Research Centre, Zoological Survey of India, Digha comprises a Research Wing and an Aquarium. The Research Wing of the Centre has been functional since 1991 and the Aquarium is also now made functional with local fishes.

(c) The commissioning of the Aquarium was delayed due to litigation in the Courts and the time spent in procurement and acclimatisation of aquatic species.

(d) The Aquarium will be fully functional only after procurement and acclimatisation of aquatic species from other regions of the country.